

# St. Paul's by-the-Sea

## Weekly news & updates

---

January 7, 2022

---



### Bishop's Pastoral Directive on the Omicron Variant

*“Happy are the people whose strength is in you! \*  
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims’ way” (Psalm 84:4)*

My beloved Diocesan Family,

As we enter a New Year, most of us were of the impression that the Covid 19 virus would have been behind us or at least significantly curtailed. The vaccines and boosters coupled with the ongoing efforts of scientific breakthrough developments have served to advance our sense of confidence in the effort toward some level of normalcy. However, as I write this directive this shared optimism remains an unrealized desire. The nation remains in a state of fearful quandary at the rate of infection we witness every day. This regrettably is influenced and driven by two variants - Delta and Omicron. At present, the latter seems to be the more dominant and disconcerting to the scientific and health care communities. It seems to present itself as a rapidly contagious variant even among fully-vaccinated and boosted people. And, this is frightening and worrisome to all citizens of God's world.

As the omicron variant of Covid 19 continues to sweep across the world, our nation, and communities on the eastern shore, it poses a significant threat to the health and safety of the beloved people of God. However, we should not be depressed nor lose hope nor abandon our commitment to continue our diligence in the observance of safety protocols. Let us continue to show love and express kindness to loved ones and neighbors. Please, I urge us all to consider our sisters and brothers with underlying health issues and compromised immune systems.

Likewise, it is my deep conviction that it will require the collaborative efforts of each member of the community to commit to do our part in contributing to the overall eradication or curtailment of the spread. This will require the Christian community to take the lead in living out Christ's dream of embodying the virtue of caring for every human person. I encourage each of us to put the health and safety interests of the entire community over and above that of my personal self-interest, even when the interest of the whole differs from mine. Christianity is at its 'better angel' when followers of Jesus stand up and make a monumental statement of faith. A statement that says 'loving our neighbor as ourself' literally means 'sharing in their welfare and well-being, walking with them in the crises of life, defending them on occasions that threaten their very survival and standing in the 'gap' when there isn't any one bold enough to manifest it'.

My beloved, I wish to reiterate, endorse and direct you to follow the protocols established and circulated by the diocese, and further complemented by parish protocols. **Let us recommit ourselves to wear masks at all times in worship and when among people who aren't members of your households. Practice regular**

**sanitization and stay home when showing symptoms associated with Covid. Observe CDC, state, and local guidelines on Covid 19.**

Let us pray: Lord God, sustain us in this vale of tears  
with the vision of your grace and glory,  
that, strengthened by the bread of life,  
we may come to your eternal dwelling place;  
in the power of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen!

Happy New Year and pledge to stay safe in 2022!

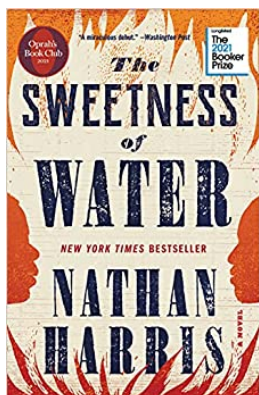
Together in Christ's service,

*Bishop San*

---

## 2022 Flower & Candle Charts

The charts are in place across from the kitchen in Fellowship Commons. This is a wonderful way to commemorate birthdays, anniversaries, memorials and thanksgivings. The cost for two formal arrangements for the main Altar is \$60. The Sanctuary Candle burns at the main Altar to the Glory of God and to signify the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ in the form of the reserve sacrament. The cost for two weeks is \$15 or \$30 for a month. Please indicate on the calendar your dedication. Place payment in the envelopes provided and then put it into the collection plate. For additional information, contact Mary Wright at 302-537-2080. There are many open dates.



## SPBTS Book Club

The next meeting of the Book Club is Monday, January 17 at 7:00 p.m. by Zoom, when *The Sweetness of Water* by Nathan Harris will be discussed.

*In the waning days of the Civil War, brothers Prentiss and Landry—freed by the Emancipation Proclamation—seek refuge on the homestead of George Walker and his wife, Isabelle. The Walkers, wracked by the loss of their only son to the war, hire the brothers to work their farm, hoping through an unexpected friendship to stanch their grief. Prentiss and Landry, meanwhile, plan to save money for the journey north and a chance to reunite with their mother, who was sold away when they were boys.*

*Parallel to their story runs a forbidden romance between two Confederate soldiers. The young men, recently returned from the war to the town of Old Ox, hold their trysts in the woods. But when their secret is discovered, the resulting chaos, including a murder, unleashes convulsive repercussions on the entire community. In the aftermath of so much turmoil, it is Isabelle who emerges as an unlikely leader, proffering a healing vision for the land and for the newly free citizens of Old Ox.*

*With candor and sympathy, debut novelist Nathan Harris creates an unforgettable cast of characters, depicting Georgia in the violent crucible of Reconstruction. Equal parts beauty and terror, as gripping as it is moving, *The Sweetness of Water* is an epic whose*

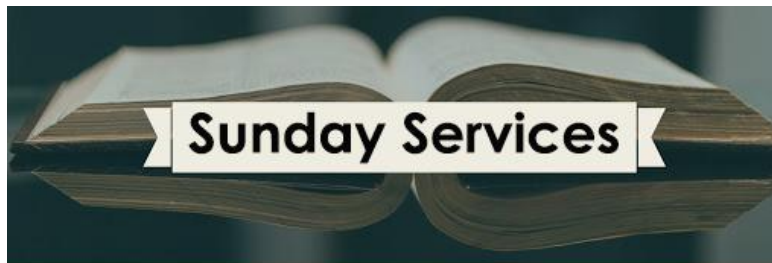
*grandeur locates humanity and love amid the most harrowing circumstances.*

The Book Club is open to anyone who loves to read. If you'd like to join the group please reach out to Debbie Shuster or Jody Farley.

Your 2022 envelopes are available for pick up. They are located in the pew at the back of the church.

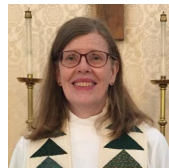


January 17 - Book Club 7pm via Zoom  
January 18 - Gary Whittington, Sr. Funeral 11:30am  
*January 18-20 - OC Blood Drive*  
January 19 - Vestry Meeting 5:30pm SPBTS



**January 9:  
*I Epiphany***  
Rite II Holy  
Eucharist

service with music,  
celebrated by Pastor Blake  
Wamester.



**January 16:  
*II Epiphany***  
Rite II Holy  
Eucharist

service with music,  
celebrated by the Rev. Dr.  
Frieda Malcolm.



**January 23:  
*III Epiphany***  
Rite II Holy

Eucharist service with  
music, celebrated by Pastor  
Blake Wamester.

**[Click here](#)** for a PDF version of the 1/9/2021 bulletin so you can follow along.



**Church Online**



**Birthdays**  
Julie Smith (1/11)

[Click here](#) to view the video of the January 2nd Morning Prayer service.

## Anniversaries

John & Karen Bunting (1/9)

### Prayer List

*Please keep those on our prayer list in your daily prayers.*

Robbie Whittington Joyce, Cindy Dreslin, Kyle Harmon, Shirley Connor, Jose Cabrera, Ryan Fischer, Katlyn, David Warren, Letty Trimper Hurst, Rev. Penny Morrow, Fr. Joe Rushton, Connie Mayers, Doug Dryden, Brian Friedman, Grace, Fr. Ron Knapp, Delores Rothermel, Ronnie Skinner, Randy Hastings, Gary Ballard, Hugh, Frank Candeloro, Jr., John Rogers, John Seward, Stephanie Hill, Douglas Allan, Yvetta Henry Tull, Melvin, Jimmy Farley, Alex Hoffman, Jonathan Jones, Nancy Wimbish, Francisco Hector Diaz Diaz, Fred Smith, Jean Charles, Tom Shuster

### Worship Leaders Schedule

#### **This Week—January 9, 2022**

Celebrant: Pastor Blake Wamester

Reader: Nancy Knotts

Altar Guild: Mary Wright

Usher: John Knotts

Counters: Nancy Knotts, Debbie Shuster

#### **Next Week—January 16, 2022**

Celebrant: Rev. Dr. Frieda Malcolm

Reader: Bob Rothermel

Altar Guild: Mary Wright

Usher: Amanda Cropper

Counters: Shirley Aydelotte, Lynda Azar



[Click here to view the Parish Calendar](#)

